

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 are pending in the present application.

Initially, It is noted that claims 1-3 were canceled in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on May 3, 2006. Thus, the only pending claims are claims 4-7.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 2001-309340. The Examiner asserts that Applicants admit that JP 2001-309340 teaches all the required limitations.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, JP Application No. 2001-309340 issued as JP 2003-115221 (JP '221) on April 18, 2003. Thus, JP '221 does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) since it was published less than one year prior to the filing date of the present application (August 19, 2003).

In addition, the inventors of the present application are the same as the inventors of JP '221 (Mr. Namikawa and Mr. Terada). Thus, the inventive entity of the subject matter disclosed in JP '221 and being relied upon by the Examiner is the same inventive entity as that in the present application. Accordingly, the subject matter relied upon by the Examiner is not "by another" as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Therefore, JP '221 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by

Tanaka et al. (US 6,170,115).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 is directed to a cleaning sheet consisting of a support, a thermoset resin cleaning layer having porosity formed on one side of the support, and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a thermoplastic resin formed on the other side of the support.

Tanaka discloses a cleaning tape comprising a tape body, an adhesive layer 40 applied on one side of the support and a porous screen 5 applied on the adhesive layer. Thus, the cleaning tape of Tanaka has the following structure: tape body/adhesive layer/porous screen. In contrast, the present invention has a structure thermoset resin cleaning layer/support/pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

Hence, Tanaka does not anticipate claim 4.

Tanaka also discloses that the cleaning tape can have a structure where an adhesive layer and porous screen are applied to both sides of a tape body. The resulting structure would be porous screen/adhesive layer/tape body/adhesive layer/porous screen. Although such structure has an adhesive layer on one side of the tape body and a porous screen on the other side of the tape body, claim 4 is still not anticipated because it recites the transitional phrase "consisting of", thereby excluding additional layers in the structure.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Tanaka does not anticipate claim 4.

In addition, each of claims 5-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-7 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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